

## ELK-SKEGEMOG LAKES ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING

December 19, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ruth Bay, Don Bonato, Bob Campbell, Gary Chenoweth, Dale Claudepierre, Jan Garvey, Mary Beth Kazanski, Brenda Miller, Pat Pierce

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Dean Ginther, Andrew Hogarth, Bob Kingon, Ken Krentz ,Dave Lawicki, Sue McCraven, Jim Sak, Nancy Schreiber, Phil Spangenberg,

Mary Beth Kazanski, Elk-Skegemog Lakes Association (ESLA) Board President, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

### **PRESENTATION**

Caroline Keson, the Monitoring and Research Coordinator for the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, gave a presentation addressing the My Shoreline Stewards Program. The presentation included a discussion about the Elk River Chain of Lakes Shoreline Survey which is located on the My Shoreline Stewards website. The survey shows the greenbelt score for each parcel of property covered by the survey and includes information explaining how the score was derived. Cladophora, heavy algae, erosion, greenbelt quality and alterations were factors measured to derive the greenbelt score. Ms. Keson demonstrated how the website can be used and explained how the My Shoreline Stewards Program provides recognition for lakefront property owners who are protecting inland lakes through best management practices on their property.

In response to various questions, Ms. Keson addressed several issues, including algae levels, survey methodology and frequency, how the Watershed Council coordinates with DEQ and may influence DEQ decision-making, and explanations for the existence of cladophora in waters bordering undeveloped land. After Ms. Keson concluded her comments, there was a discussion addressing inclusion of information about the My Shoreline Stewards program in future ESLA newsletters.

### **GENERAL MEETING**

The minutes of the September 19, 2019 Board Meeting were approved as written.

TREASURER'S REPORT: No report was issued.

Mary Beth noted that due to Phil Spangenberg's absence, she is now an official signer on specified financial accounts. A document containing a draft of the 2020 budget plus a comparison of the 2019 budget with actual and anticipated budget data was distributed and discussed (copy attached). The discussion included input by Pat Pierce regarding expenditures for buoys and accessories (e.g., reflectors). It was determined that the draft of the 2020 budget should be revised by increasing the amount designated for safety, service and equipment from \$1,000 to \$4,000. The discussion also included questions regarding the amount that should be allocated for water treatment in the 2020

budget and what expenditures were included in the \$22,552 spent for “projects” as of September 19, 2019. It was agreed that these questions should be “tabled” until the next meeting when more information will be available.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Brenda Miller gave the membership report. Brenda noted that there are currently 551 members and that this is greater than last year’s level. Brenda also noted that the level of giving or donations from members has increased and that a survey indicates members are inclined to make project-based donations. Brenda’s comments generated discussion addressing how members could be apprised of possible gift matching by employers, how ESLA’s newsletter could be utilized to distribute membership information and encourage donations, membership category options and dues levels. It was determined that dues should not be increased at this time and that project-based donation options (e.g., swimmers’ itch, water quality) should be reviewed.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE: Ruth Bay gave the communications report. Ruth noted that additional topics for future newsletters were needed. Brenda Miller questioned whether the *It’s a Shore Thing* events should be continued and the consensus was to continue these events. Bob Campbell suggested inviting Andrea Albert of the DNR to be a speaker at future events. Bob also mentioned the need to update the ESLA website.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: No report was issued.

SAFETY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE: Pat Pierce reported that the buoys have been pulled and that he is waiting for an invoice from Lakeshore Marine.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE: Dale Claudepierre reported that Jan Garvey will become the new chair of the Environmental Committee.

Questions were addressed to a guest present at the meeting, Kevin Kalchik, the plant engineer for Burnette Foods. The questions concerned the recent Notice of Violation issued by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) which was discussed at the September 19, 2019 ESLA meeting. Mr. Kalchik was asked why the runoff problems attributed to Burnette Foods were not observed if Burnette Foods has an ongoing water monitoring process. Mr. Kalchik stated that Burnette Foods has responded to the EGLE report and was working with others to determine the steps that should be taken to address runoff problems. Mr. Kalchik mentioned the checks and testing that are in place and said that Burnette Foods was reviewing potential controls for the future. Dale explained that ESLA was not targeting Burnette Foods when it alerted EGLE that there were high *E.coli* concentrations and that ESLA’s goal was to work with Burnette Foods to protect water quality. Mary Beth Kazanski noted that we are waiting for a DNA analysis to see if the *E.coli* concentrations are related to animal waste. Hope was expressed that Andy Hogarth and Mr. Kalchik would continue to communicate on what was being done by Burnette Foods to address the runoff issues.

Jan Garvey discussed Purple Loosestrife, emphasizing the amount of “pre work” that must be completed if Purple Loosestrife is going to be treated again next summer. Concerns were expressed regarding whether the “pre work” could be completed in time to do treatment next summer and there was a discussion regarding how to address this problem in the future. A possible solution that was mentioned is to treat the “hot spots” next summer and obtain multi-year treatment permission from property owners in future years.

Mary Beth will sign and return the PLM contract before the end of the year. This is necessary if ESLA wants to treat for Eurasian Watermilfoil and Purple Loosestrife in 2020, and gets us in PLM’s planning cycle. It is not a commitment.

ERCOL: No report was issued.

TOM: No report was issued.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Rugg Pond Update: Mary Beth stated that there were no major developments to report and that we are still waiting for information needed to determine the work that should be performed.

Swimmers’ Itch: Mary Beth Kazanski and Jan Garvey discussed a recent forum they attended. They indicated that the forum speakers demonstrated a definite bias toward waterfowl removal as a means for addressing swimmers’ itch. However, Mary Beth and Jan noted that GPS tracking indicates that at least one Merganser that was relocated returned to Elk-Skegemog lakes, some relocated Mergansers did not survive, property owners where birds were relocated are complaining about swimmers’ itch and that migratory birds may be a factor in the swimmers’ itch problem. Jan questioned whether relocation was going to be allowed as a long-term solution. A recent study which will include migration data has not yet been completed. Jan stated that she believes there has been a paradigm shift and that Ron Reimink indicated that steps riparians can take, such as raking and baffle use, are the action that should be taken to address swimmers’ itch. Bob Campbell suggested that the ESLA newsletter be used to educate riparians regarding what they can do to address the problem. Jan mentioned qPCR monitoring and stated that Northwestern Michigan College has expressed an interest in participating in community based monitoring.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Hacking: Mary Beth mentioned recent hacking of her email account. It was determined that email addresses of ESLA Board members will be removed from the ESLA Newsletter and ESLA website.

Event Barns: It was noted that event barns is a topic scheduled to be discussed at the January 10, 2020 Whitewater Township Board meeting.

2020 Meeting Dates: The following meeting dates were established: March 19, May 21, June 19 (Annual Meeting), July 16, September 17, December 10.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

Submitted by Recording Secretary, Donald Bonato.